



# Green is Good in Houston Green Terminology

ACH	Air Changes per Hour. Part of ENERGY STAR® 3.0 and <i>Environments for Living</i> ® Platinum Level testing to determine how much air leaks through the walls and ceilings. Lower number is more efficient.
AFUE	Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency. A furnace's heating efficiency. Measures the heat delivered vs. the fuel used. Measures in percentages. The higher number is better.
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers. This is the primary organization used in the United States for the design standards in our HVAC systems.
HERS	HERS Index is a scoring system established by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET®) that measures the energy performance of a home. The lower your home's HERS Index, the more energy-efficient it is.
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. HVAC includes the furnace, air conditioning components, fan and ductwork installed in a home.
Fresh Air System	An electronic system connected to the HVAC system that brings in filtered outside air on a timed basis.
IAQ	Indoor Air Quality. IAQ is the quality of the air breathed by occupants of an indoor or enclosed environment.
IRC	International Residential Code. The IRC is the Building Code for the State of Texas.
Jump Duct	A flexible, short, u-shaped duct that connects a room to a common space as a pressure balancing mechanism.
Low-E2	Low emissivity. Two layers of coatings on windows that maximize the amount of heat reflected back which, in turn, greatly reduces utility bills.
Manual J	The ASHRAE method for calculating residential home cooling loads and the sizing of the system.
Pressure Balancing	To equalize air pressure between rooms in a home by adjusting air flow in supply and return ducts.
R-410A	Environmentally-friendly refrigerant used in our HVAC systems.
R-Value	Resistance-Value. The resistance a material has to heat flow. The higher the R-Value, the greater the resistance.
SEER	Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating. It measures the efficiency of the air conditioner once it is up and running. Higher number is better.
Sill Seal	A foam gasket applied underneath the bottom plate (the piece of lumber that sits on top of the foundation) and keeps air and water from coming into the wall.
SHGC	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient. The solar radiation entering a home through the windows. The lower the number, the better the window is at blocking heat gain.
Thermal Envelope/ Enclosure	A home's exterior shell – walls, foundation, floors, ceiling, windows, doors and roof.
U-Value	A measure of heat transmission due to the air temperature difference from inside to outside. The lower the U-Value, the better.
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds. The term covers a wide range of chemical compounds, some of which can be harmful.

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